



## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

101

Region: One  
Contact Person: Lee Allen Beckner  
Telephone: (304) 387-0777

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, There is no monetary reward/stipend to, the maximum number of 100, silver haired legislators, when they attend regional or state-wide meetings; and

**WHEREAS**, Rooms (at double occupancy) and most meals are usually provided for state-wide meetings. No stipend is provided for regional or local meetings. Travel expenses are not reimbursed. However some senior centers do provide center vehicles for SHL members; and

**WHEREAS**, The cost of travel has increased tremendously during the past year (i.e., gasoline has doubled and in some cases tripled). Meals and rooms charges have also increased; and

**WHEREAS**, SHL members are dedicated and hard-working citizens. They do provide very important input into the state legislative process. Seniors in our state, as a group, are the largest single segment; and

**WHEREAS**, A stipend of \$25.00 for state-wide meetings would only partially cover the cost of gas, meals not provided and incidentals.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the West Virginia Legislature strongly consider a flat \$25.00 reimbursement to each SHL member who attends statewide meetings in conjunction with SHL business.



## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

102

Region: One  
Contact Person: Lee Allen Beckner  
Telephone: (304) 387-0777

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, West Virginia ranks in the top two or three states with the largest senior population it is reasonable to assume that the number of licensed senior vehicle operators are also in the same proportion; and

**WHEREAS**, Presently there are no limited/restricted/conditional operators permits for those who have somewhat diminished driving capabilities such as: decreased vision, reduced reaction time, physical limitations, etc. A vehicle operator either has a fully approved license or nothing; and

**WHEREAS**, Commercial public transportation for the most part, in rural West Virginia, is nonexistent; and

**WHEREAS**, Seniors still capable of driving to the nearest store, doctor, post office, bank, etc., during daylight hours are reluctant to surrender their operators permit because they lose their freedom and must rely on friends, relatives and neighbors to accomplish the simple errands required of daily living; and

**WHEREAS**, Other states have recognized this situation and have adopted a restricted/conditional vehicle operators permit to allow those seniors who cannot qualify for a regular license, the legal means to continue to remain mobile in their later years and not to contribute to vehicular accidents.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the West Virginia legislature investigate the feasibility of providing a restricted/conditional vehicle operators permit to those over the age of 55 who cannot qualify for a regular license but can meet the criteria of a restricted/conditional operators permit.



## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

104

Region: One  
Contact Person: Bob Rine  
Telephone: (304) 243-8766

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, West Virginia Code 11-6B 3 (b) states that the Homestead Property Tax Exemption is available only on a home the owner occupied on the July 1 assessment date; and

**WHEREAS**, West Virginia Code 11-6B 2 (8) requires occupancy of the property for at least six consecutive months; and

**WHEREAS**, Each of these sections of the Code unfairly penalizes a person who is receiving the exemption simply because he or she moves to another residence but does not meet the two cited requirements of the Code; and

**WHEREAS**, A person who is eligible for the Homestead Exemption should not lose it merely because of a change of residence.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that each of the cited sections of the code be amended to eliminate the unfair and punitive clauses that cause a homeowner to lose the exemption for a year simply because he or she moves to another residence.



## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

201

Region: Two  
Contact Person: Shirley Campbell  
Telephone: (304) 925-3935

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, currently Governor Manchin is promoting a "Come Home to West Virginia" Program; and

**WHEREAS**, retirees are considered an economic development according to a study by "WV Public Finance Program Project Report" by the Bureau of Business, College of Business and Economics - WV University, May 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the aforementioned report also states the retirees are equal to 3.5 factory jobs; and

**WHEREAS**, 30 states currently offer a \$20,000 or more state tax exemption to annuities of retired public employee; and

**WHEREAS**, the state of WV does not give an equal state income tax exemption to all public employees annuities; an additional \$20,000 income tax exemption to the military and a complete state income tax exemption given to the annuities of certain law enforcement officers and fire fighters; and

**WHEREAS**, most retired public employees have their own health benefits and would not be a drain on the WV Medicaid Program.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that all annuities of retired public employees be exempted at an equal rate.



## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

202

Region: Two  
Contact Person: Janet Altizer  
Telephone: (304) 736-4333

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, to budget \$50,000 annually to support the Silver Haired Legislature; and

**WHEREAS**, West Virginia now has the highest average age in the country, and the views of senior citizens have gained greater importance; and

**WHEREAS**, when the legislature initiated the Silver Haired Legislature in the early 1980s, the funding was set at \$25,000 annually; and

**WHEREAS**, along with funding going down and transportation costs going up; and

**WHEREAS**, the current budget previously required a shorter length of sessions; and

**WHEREAS**, the reduced level of accomplishment resulting from shortened sessions has diminished the importance of the Silver Haired Legislature and consequently reduced the interest of seniors in this process so that filling the quota of delegates from various regions has not always been achieved; and

**WHEREAS**, the money allocated by the West Virginia Legislature for the Silver Haired Legislature should be accounted for in an annual report submitted to the finance committee of the West Virginia Legislature.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the West Virginia Legislature be encouraged to budget annually the sum of \$50,000 for the Silver Haired Legislature so that this Legislature can work for and achieve high national status.



## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

203

Region: Two  
Contact Person: Janet Altizer  
Telephone: (304) 736-4333

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, the West Virginia Magistrate judges are numerically assigned to counties, one magistrate for every 20,000 citizens, it leaves some counties in the state with only two magistrates; and

**WHEREAS**, the defeat of either or both of these magistrates in partisan elections would leave smaller counties without the services of an experienced magistrate.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Silver Haired Legislature to recommend to the West Virginia Legislature that future magistrates in each county of the state shall be elected for 4 year terms on a staggered basis, thereby assuring every county will have at least one experienced magistrate serving at all times.



## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

301

Region: Three  
Contact Person: Phil Turner  
Telephone: (304) 864-0154

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, older handicapped fisherman do not have accessible pathways to get to many riverbanks in West Virginia to enjoy fishing; and

**WHEREAS**, many streams are stocked but do not have handicapped accessible entryways; and

**WHEREAS**, one of the most enjoyable intergenerational recreational activities that a grandparent can do with grandchildren is enjoy an afternoon fishing together; and

**WHEREAS**, many seniors have problems with walking in desolate areas and need handicapped accessible places to fish.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the WV Legislature provide funds to expand the public stream access and upgrade those that are not handicapped accessible.



**2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATURE**

**RESOLUTION**

**302**

Region: Three  
Contact Person: Garry Lynn Shearer  
Telephone: (304) 269-1923

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, healthcare costs in the United States are one of the highest in the world; and

**WHEREAS**, many U.S. citizens (47,000,000) have no healthcare benefits at all; and

**WHEREAS**, many U.S. citizens do not have peace of mind about financial security for their senior years.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the WV Legislature pass a Resolution to be presented to the United States Congress urging the members to work across the aisle to provide affordable healthcare to every citizen and to provide financial security for those in their senior years.





## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

303

Region: Three  
Contact Person: Myrtle Wilhelm  
Telephone: (304) 329-0819

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, many studies have shown that distracted driving is a major cause of vehicular accidents and related deaths; and

**WHEREAS**, taking your eyes off the road for dialing, texting or answering the phone could cause significant lapse of concentration for driving; and

**WHEREAS**, even speaking on the phone would be equivalent to talking to a passenger which has been shown to be a cause of accidents.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** to make it unlawful to use a cell phone while driving a vehicle.



## 2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAIRED LEGISLATURE

### RESOLUTION

401

Region: Four  
Contact Person: June Bright  
Telephone: (304) 847-2651

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, to allow senior citizens entry to any state park or recreation area, with no admission fee if state or federal money went into developing them, including resorts or recreational areas operating under state park management agreements; and

**WHEREAS**, senior citizens in West Virginia worked for many years, paying all state and federal taxes during their years of employment; and

**WHEREAS**, retired senior citizens live on a fixed income, many under the poverty level; and

**WHEREAS**, some of these state parks or recreation areas charge a fee just to drive in and drive around sight-seeing or to look for a friend or family member who might be staying at the park.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that no senior citizen should be charged an entry fee into any state park or recreation area if state or federal money went into their development.



**2008 WEST VIRGINIA SILVER HAired LEGISLATURE**

**RESOLUTION**

**402**

Region: Four  
Contact Person: Loretta Jones  
Telephone: (304) 438-8937

***The Silver Haired Legislature hereby requests the West Virginia State Legislature to take the following action:***

**WHEREAS**, a large percentage of our students do not attend college or are interested in college; and

**WHEREAS**, our culture and society are requiring more and more skills for employment; and

**WHEREAS**, a small percentage of high school students are not ready to enter the workforce other than to accept minimum wage employment; and

**WHEREAS**, students could and would feel more comfortable attending technical/vocational schools available offering a good selection of courses; and

**WHEREAS**, students must be educated in current job positions.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the State of West Virginia needs to establish more technical/vocational schools to train students in this capacity.